# THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 18. SATURDAY, JULY 17TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.


**Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.**
**All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.**

## SPECIAL MEETINGS.

*Friday, July 16th.*
Dinner Hour—Kent's, Approach Rd. Victoria Park.
3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.
5 p.m.—Custom House.
8 p.m.—Piggott St.
8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.
8 p.m.—Victoria Park Square.
8 p.m.—Knapp Road.
9 p.m.—Upper North St.
9 p.m.—Gibraltar Walk.
9 p.m.—Chrisp St. and Grundy St.

*Saturday, July 17th.*
Dinner Hour—Allan Cockshutts'.
" Greens', Poplar.
" Spratts'.
3 p.m.—Libra Rd. and Roman Rd.
3 p.m.—Well St. and Mornington Rd.
3 p.m.—Suffolk St.
4 p.m.—Lesbia Rd.
4 p.m.—Park Gates, Grove Rd.
5 p.m.—Victoria Park Square.
4 p.m.—Chrisp St. and Grundy St.
5 p.m.—Dock Gates.
8 p.m.—Rathbone St., 'White-house.'
8 p.m.—Knapp Rd.
9 p.m.—'Boleyn,' Green St.
8 p.m.—Salmon Lane.
9 p.m.—Grundy St. and Kerbey St.
9 p.m.—Obelisk.

*Sunday, July 18th.*
11 a.m.—'Salmon and Ball.'
12 noon—Morpeth St.
3 p.m.—Stratford Broadway.
8 p.m.—Dock Gates.
8 p.m.—Victoria Pk., Crown Gate.

*Monday, July 19th.*
Dinner Hour—Comptons'.
" Greens', Poplar.
3 p.m.—Armagh Rd.
4 p.m.—St. Stephen's Rd.
5 p.m.—Custom House.
8 p.m.—Abbey Arms.
8 p.m.—Dock Gates.
9 p.m.—Beckton Rd.

**Monday**, July 19th, 8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—General Meeting.
**Tuesday**, July 20th—**DEMONSTRATION.**
**Wednesday**, July 21st, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mr. Everett.
3 p.m.—Ford Road—Miss Fedden.
8.30 p.m.—Kempshead Rd. Hall, Old Kent Rd.—Members' Meeting.
**Thursday**, July 22nd, 8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Cyon.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Mrs. McLeod.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard's St.—Miss Chesley.
**Friday**, July 23rd, 8 p.m.—Piggott St.
8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.—Miss Somers.
3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Scurr.
**Sunday**, July 25th, 3.30 p.m.—Victoria Park

## SWEATING in MUNITION WORKS

### WOMEN PAID HALF MEN'S WAGES.

Mrs. Gertrude Wilkinson, secretary of the Sheffield Women Worker's Organising Committee, sends us the following particulars in regard to the wages paid to girls and women in the Sheffield munition factories, as compared with the lowest wage paid to men for precisely the same work.

*Men.*

26s. a week (others report 32s., but probably the rates vary).

*Women.*

| | per week | War bonus |
|---|---|---|
| 18 years and under... | 8s. and | 1s. |
| 19 " " | 11s. " | 1s. |
| 20 " " | 12s. " | 1s. |
| 21 " " | 14s. " | 1s. |

After a week of 45 hours at ordinary pay has been worked, women may claim $\frac{1}{3}$ extra for each hour worked at night, $\frac{1}{2}$ extra for each hour worked on Saturday, and $\frac{1}{1}$ extra for each hour worked on Sunday.

As the pay of girls of 18 is $2\frac{6}{10}$d. per hour, and that of adult women $3\frac{11}{10}$d., they will have to work a very long week's overtime before they can make £1.

# JOIN THE WORKERS'

# Great Procession to Parliament,

## Tuesday Night, July 20th.

## NO COMPULSION WITHOUT SAFEGUARDS!

## NO "NATIONAL" SERVICE UNDER MAKERS OF PRIVATE PROFITS!

## DOWN WITH SWEATING!

Women are working in Munition Factories for 8s. a week.

## DEMAND A MAN'S WAGE FOR A MAN'S JOB!

## DOWN WITH HIGH FOOD PRICES & BIG PROFITS!

## WE DEMAND VOTES FOR WOMEN TO PROTECT OUR HOMES AND WAGES!

## Working women and men you are all needed!

## JOIN YOUR PROCESSION!

**DISTRICTS NORTH OF BOW ROAD form up—**

**BOW, 8 p.m., at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road. March, 8.30 p.m. sharp, via Old Ford Road, Grove Road, Bow Road, Mile End Road, Whitechapel Road to—Gardiner's Corner.**

**DISTRICTS SOUTH OF BOW ROAD form up—**

**POPLAR, 8 p.m.—at the East India Dock Gates. March 8.30 p.m. sharp, via Commercial Road to—Gardiner's Corner.**

**BOW AND POPLAR PROCESSIONS**

**Unite at Gardiner's Corner and march via Leadenhall Street, Cornhill, Queen Victoria Street, Cannon Street, Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, Strand, Whitehall to—the HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

**DANISH WOMEN CELEBRATE THEIR VICTORY.**

## OUR LETTER to LLOYD GEORGE.

Sir,

You have agreed to receive a deputation urging compulsory service, without regard to the conditions upon which that service is to be exacted.

I write on behalf of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, a body of working women who have gained experience of life in a hard school, to ask that you will receive a deputation of our members who would urge upon you:—

(1) That the Munitions Act, which has been hastily passed through before the people of the country have been able to realise its provisions, contains no pledge that women who are engaged to do the war work hitherto done by men shall receive the wages hitherto paid to men. Clause 5 in the second Schedule, which deals with the question of women's labour, you have construed to mean that if women are paid on piece work rates, they shall receive the piece rates hitherto paid to men. But the Clause is valueless, because it does not insist that women, even after they have become skilled, shall be paid on piece rates. Employers therefore prefer to pay women on time rates, in the case of which no provision against sweating has been laid down.

This matter causes our members the gravest consternation and alarm, both as wage earners on their own account, and also as wives who have to lay out the wages of workmen.

(2) We would also urge that the Munitions Act does not bear out the promise made that armament manufacturers should not make increased war profits; and that the Committee appointed to deal with this question is not of a sufficiently representative character to protect the interests, either of the workers in the trades concerned, or of the general public.

(3) That the safeguards against undue exploitation of the workers, and especially of the working women, by private employers, which are contained in the Munitions Act, are wholly inadequate to justify the degree of coercion which may already be applied to the workers under the Munitions Act and the National Register Act, to say nothing of a more general and extended form of compulsory service.

Our members ask that you will receive them at 10 p.m. on the evening of Tuesday, July 20th, as they are arranging to march from East London to see you on that night.

Faithfully yours,
E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Mr. J. King, M.P., writes: Dear Miss Pankhurst:—I am very grateful to you for writing to me about your deputation on the 20th. It is with the deepest sympathy and conviction that I wish it much success.

Mr. W. C. Anderson and other Members have also expressed their sympathy.

"We have sacrificed the principles which we held dear, in order to help our country in its great need."—*Mr. Llewellyn Williams in the House of Commons.*

If principles are worth the holding, it cannot help our country that we sacrifice them. If we have faith in our principles, we must believe that their application will help, and not hinder the nation. Otherwise we should abandon the principles as worthless, and place our faith in others!

**WANTED.**

Home for baby girl, aged eleven months.
Home for baby girl of three months.
Respectable woman to take charge of baby at night, arrangements already made for minding it during the day.

## OUTING.

We regret to announce that some alterations have to be made regarding the Outing on Sunday. Owing to the tides, the steamer will leave Swan Pier, London Bridge at 9.45, instead of Blackwall Pier. Please be there at *9.15*. It is not possible to provide dinner for 4s., as a sufficient number of tickets were not sold in advance, but the price of tickets will be reduced to 3s., and food may be purchased on board, or taken from home. Tea at 5.30 will be included in the ticket. Those who have bought 4s. tickets, will have 1s. refunded on presenting their ticket. Children under 12, half-price. The steamer arrives Richmond 1.30, leaves at 5.30, reaching London Bridge at 8 p.m.

The
**Woman's Dreadnought.**
*Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,*
**400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.**
*Telephone EAST 1787.*

AGENTS:
INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5 Duke Street, Charing Cross, W.C.; CITY AND SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.
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**Vol. II. No. 18.—Sat. July 17th, 1915.**

**Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?**

## FOR JUSTICE.

Dear Friends,

The demands that we shall carry from East London to the House of Commons on the night of Tuesday, July 20th, are of most vital importance.

The gross underpayment of women on munition work and in making soldiers' outfits, still continues, and should the practice, which has already begun, of employing women at sweated rates to do the work hitherto done by men become general, the standard of livelihood for every working class home will be steadily undermined and widespread misery will result.

Even whilst the War continues, we see men returning disabled from fighting, but are told that they cannot be pensioned, because they are still fitted for civilian work. These men, unless we can prevent it, will soon find that their old places have been filled by women working for half their old wage.

Those men will hate the women then, they may even demonstrate against them as they come to the factory gates, but the women will be bound by the legal net of Emergency Legislation, and unable even to agitate for a higher wage.

It is essential therefore that we demand that men and women shall receive an equal wage. The position of women in the labour market will always be a weak and dangerous one, until they are organised and armed with the Parliamentary Vote.

The cost of living is steadily rising, and excessive War profits are increasing the burden of the War taxes that we shall presently have to pay.

It was promised that the Munitions Act should prevent the armament firms from making extra profits in war time, but an examination of the Act proves, that though the workers have given up their liberties on the strength of the promise, the Act allows tremendous extra profits to continue with little check

Therefore, the compulsory powers which have been established to coerce the workers are being used, not for the benefit of the nation, but for the profit of contractors, and further compulsory powers will merely be used to the same end. When those who are crying for compulsion for the worker are prepared to surrender their own private interests and profits, and to give their services to the State for a moderate wage, we shall believe in their profession of patriotism, but not before!

If we are determined that the workers, and especially the poorest workers, shall not be crushed between the upper millstone of war profits and the nether millstone of want, we must make our demands clearly known.

Therefore, let us march in our thousands to Parliament on July 20th.

Yours for freedom,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

## WAR PENSIONS.

The Military and Naval War Pensions Bill, which will probably be an Act of Parliament by the time this paper reaches our readers' hands, is one of which every soldiers' wife and mother should take account.

The whole fabric of the measure should spur us on to struggle for the day when working women will be strongly organised and armed with political power to secure for themselves justice and the right to a hand in settling matters of Government which vitally affect their lives.

The Bill contains many provisions that are highly dangerous to the soldiers' and sailors' wives and mothers, and very large powers over them are given to committees, on which, unless they make a very persistent agitation for it, they will receive no representation.

A Central Statutory Committee is being set up to deal with the pensions and allowances, to consist of ten persons nominated by the King or, in other words, by the Government, one by the Treasury, one by the Admiralty, one by the Army Council, one by the Local Government Board for England, one for Scotland, one for Ireland, ten by certain public charities, that is to say, six by the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, two by the National Relief Fund, two by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, also one representative of the National Health Insurance Commissioners, and two Labour representatives—added as an afterthought—and chosen how and by whom it is not yet announced.

"Some" of the ten representatives appointed by the King, and "some" of the six appointed by the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation must be women. But in the debate in Parliament there was no opinion expressed from any quarter that any of the women chosen should be representatives of those who are eligible for pensions and separation allowances. Yet these are the very people who ought to be placed on the committees, for they understand what the interests of the women and children concerned are, and how they are affected.

To assist the Statutory Committee in its work a Local Committee is to be established in every county and county borough. The local County Council or Borough Council shall prepare the scheme for the formation of the Local Committee, with the approval of the Statutory Committee, and it is laid down that the chairman of the Local Committee and the majority of its members must be appointed by the County or Borough Council.

There must be "some" women on each Local Committee. The Local Committees in counties may appoint district sub-committees.

The Local Committee will most likely turn out to be very much like the Mayor's Committees and Relief Committees for the administration of the Prince of Wales's fund, with which we have had so much to do of late. They will probably be like the Mayor's Committee, both in regard to the scheme on which they are called together, and the persons who sit upon them. Only by the infusion of new blood, which can be brought in by the addition of representatives of the women who will be learning from personal day to day experience what it means to be dependent on the good offices of such a committee, can the committees be saved from the making of many and grievous blunders, and the commission of injustices.

The new Statutory Committee will have to deal partly with monies provided by Parliament, partly with charitable subscriptions obtained from the Prince of Wales's fund and other sources.

The War Office is the sole arbiter as to whether an applicant is entitled to separation allowance or pension, and (up to the moment of writing at least) there is no right of appeal from its decision. The Old Age Pension Committee and its officer used to decide the *amount* of pensions due to dependants other than wives and children, but this duty now belongs to the new Statutory Committees.

In dealing with monies provided by Parliament, the Statutory Committee and the Local Committees and Sub-Committees will have to conform to the rules laid down by the War Office; but when dealing with charitable funds the Statutory Committee will make its own rules. Its duty is to frame a scheme of supplementary grants to be added to Government allowances in exceptional cases, and for giving grants where Government allowances are not made.

The principle source from which the money for these grants will be drawn is the Prince of Wales's fund, and in the Parliamentary debates on the Bill it was stated that the grants would be needed principally to supplement the allowances of dependants who had been accustomed to middle-class incomes, and would now find it difficult to manage on the Government pensions and separation allowances.

Everyone must sympathise with people thus placed, for the allowances are but small, and the rising cost of living reduces them day by day. But even people who were poor before the war need clothes and a roof to cover them, and food to eat now, and the War Office arrangements for soldiers' and sailors' mothers are such that the less a mother had before the war, the less she is having now, and the more, therefore, she is in need of help.

The Prince of Wales's fund has been chiefly subscribed by working people, we are told that the subscriptions from the richer classes have now entirely ceased, but the regular dues deducted from the wages of working men and women continue as before. This being so, it would be grossly unjust to spend the fund mainly in providing for a minority of persons a higher standard of living than that enjoyed by the majority of those who have subscribed.

In this connection, we must remember that the Prince of Wales's fund was subscribed originally for the relief of unemployment and distress caused by the War. We wish it had been reserved entirely for this purpose. We dislike the practice of coupling inadequate State provision for soldiers, sailors, and their dependants with the promise that their position shall be made a little less unbearable by charitable grants, which are given by favour, and may be withdrawn at will.

The most sinister provision of the War Pensions Bill is that which gives the Statutory Committee the power **"to decide whether any pension grant or separation allowance to wife, widow, child, or other dependant, has under the regulations, subject to which it was granted, become forfeited."**

We are most bitterly and uncompromisingly opposed to this clause. We hold most emphatically that the pensions and allowances should be the absolute property of the recipient and should not be forfeited for any cause. The law has many other means of punishing wrong doers without this.

In the case of soldiers and sailors themselves, pensions cannot be withdrawn unless the holder is convicted of an offence for which the punishment is imprisonment without the option of a fine, but wives, widows, and other dependants are subject to all the dangers that may arise from mischievous backbiting, and by lying or mistaken reports that may be made against them. They will have no right of appeal, no power to demand a public trial.

The letter which we published last week from the Bow branch of the S.S.F.A. to a local soldiers' wife, and the case which we report this week of the refusal by one of that Society's officials to hand over to a soldiers' widow a grant of £7 due to her from the Royal Patriotic fund, are in themselves enough to prove the injustice and unwisdom of placing these excessive powers over poor women in the hands of irresponsible non-elected persons.

They prove too, the urgent need for assuring to the soldiers' and sailors' relatives a clear legal right to things that are morally theirs. Charity is always a little humiliating to the recipient—when bound with red tape, as it must be in a great scheme involving huge numbers of people, it is obnoxious in the extreme.

The soldiers and sailors and their dependants should be armed with the right to demand what is due to them, and to sue for it through the Courts if it is withheld. If they endeavour to obtain more than they are entitled to by fraudulent means, they may be (and have been) prosecuted and punished by the Courts. They should be armed with a corresponding power to obtain what is due to them.

Many and many a soldier is turned out of the Army penniless, and left in misery and destitution, because he lacks this power to-day. One man who was discharged in a state of helpless illness on December 16th, had a grant of £2 and six grants of 17s. 6d. from the S.S.F.A., and then nothing more till April 9th, when, in response to appeals by the E.L.F.S., he received from Chelsea Hospital a promise of 1s. 6d. a day for a year, provided that he does not get well in the meantime. This man has a wife and five children under the age for leaving school.

Neither the S.S.F.A. nor the Army authorities gave him any advice in regard to getting a pension.

Another man was discharged very ill on April 30th. To day he staggered into this office to ask if we had any news for him. He has not received a penny since his discharge, although we have written on his behalf, enclosing a doctor's certificate, to Chelsea Hospital, the War Office, and the Army Paymaster.

A third man is badly wounded and paralysed in both fore arms and also the left hand. He is suffering great pain and cannot dress or feed himself. He was discharged on June 14th, when his pay and his wife's allowance both stopped, and has received neither pay, treatment, nor any instructions how to procure them, until this day.

The care of the disabled soldier, as well as the destinies of the relatives of the men who are fighting, or have been killed, will be placed in the hands of the Statutory Committees and the Local Committees and sub-committees under them.

The Statutory Committee will have power to make rules, but the local committees and sub-committees will have tremendous power—it is they who will come into direct contact with the men, women and children concerned; it is they who will decide each individual case as it comes along; and it is in the light of their reports that any appeal that may be made to the central committee will be viewed.

It will be a hard fight for the soldiers' relatives, though they are the persons most entitled to claim representation, to get on to these committees, for there is always a clique of parties and persons who scramble for places on the committees, even though, when they have obtained them, they seldom attend, and take little or no interest in the work.

Moreover, the poor working mother has not yet won for herself the honoured and assured place in the management of public affairs that is her

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

right. There are too many people who love to pry into her home and criticise its management; too many who presume to teach and preach at her, without the least experience of the difficulties she has to face.

Persons of this type will deeply resent the appointment of the working women, whom they wish to patronise, on the committees.

But the fight must be made now, and continued until it is successful, it is a necessary safeguard for the welfare and peace of mind of the women concerned, and an essential step in the emancipation of the working woman.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

## CHEATING A SOLDIER'S WIFE.

### SCANDALOUS BEHAVIOUR OF THE S.S.F.A.

A woman whose husband has just been killed at the front, and who has two little children aged six months and two years, last week received a letter from the Royal Patriotic Fund to say that they had granted her £7 on account of her husband's death. This letter stated that she must apply for her money to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association at the Bromley Public Hall in Bow Road.

On applying there she was told that the money had not come through, but that it would be brought to her as soon as it was received.

Afterwards a certain Miss Boswell, an assistant of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, called on her and told her that she had put the money in the bank for her and that if the soldier's wife wanted to hear any more about her money she must call on Miss Boswell at 15 Vernon Road the next week. The soldier's wife supposed that this Miss Boswell had the power to retain her money and she therefore made no strong protest, but hoped that she would get the money next time.

But the woman's elder child was now becoming very ill, and the doctor ordered her special nourishment. Therefore when she again called on Miss Boswell, on July 8th, she urgently needed money and she begged to have some of what belonged to her, even if it were only 10s.

But Miss Boswell was adamant. She said she would not hand over any of the money and that she was going to put £5 of it in the War Loan.

We have put this in our solicitor's hands.

## WOUNDED AND DONE WITH!

A soldier, who is wounded in both arms so that he is now unable to do anything for himself at all, who was two months in hospital in Devonport, and had two operations in France, was discharged without pay on June 14th, as no longer physically fit for War Service, his wife's separation allowance also stopped at the same time. This man served twelve years as a soldier, and went through the Boer War. He is suffering great pain and the wounds are still unhealed. The man and his wife are entirely destitute.

When are those pensions coming?

The *Daily Chronicle* reports that 160 Belfast families have received notice to quit before July 20th. Every one of these families has one representative at least serving in the Army. The object is said to be a political one, the Unionists hoping to deprive the absent soldiers of their votes by evicting their families before July 20th, the last day of the qualifying period, and thus weakening the Nationalist power in West Belfast. If this is how the Unionists are encouraging recruiting, it is small wonder that they want conscription! It is time the soldiers' wives had power to protect themselves!

Lord George Hamilton, Lord Balfour of Burleigh and Mr. Chaplin, M.P., have drawn pensions up to March 31st, 1914, amounting to £26,206, £11,789, and £14,808 respectively. Does Lord Middleton regard such pensions as economical whilst £13 for an old age pensioner is an extravagance on the part of the Liberal Government?

# SWEATING OF WOMEN ON WAR SERVICE.

*To the Editor of* WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Dear Madam,—I have received an appeal to join a "War Service Procession," organised for July 17th, ending with a deputation to Mr. Lloyd George, asking for Women's Rights to serve in the National Crisis.

I can find no reference to the principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work" in the preamble, and I foresee nothing short of Industrial Revolution after the War, if women secure no such safeguards *now*.

No system of inspection—Government or otherwise—can ensure a return to higher wages after the War, once the employers secure this cheapest source of labour from the women of the country.

The sweating of women in munition factories at 8s. a week, of outworkers on khaki contracts, etc., are a disgrace, at a time when the mothers of the nation should be specially looked after, for the sake of the future of the race. The babies are dying at 50 per cent. higher rate now than this time last year. I have written across the W.S.P.U. appeal form, with my name and address, "Equal Pay for Equal Work, otherwise women will undercut men returning to work after the War."

Yours faithfully, A SUFFRAGETTE.

## UNEQUAL PAY.

Mr. Wilson, writing to the *Morning Post*, says:—I think the following facts show the inequality of payments for Government work: A girl who has had five years' training with a Court dressmaker, had to leave because trade was slack; she wanted to do Army work, and was taken on by a large wholesale tailor east of Aldgate. She is a quick worker, and was given canvas bandoliers to make, which entail a great deal of stitching. She is paid 4½d. a dozen, and by working eleven hours a day can make six dozen, earning 2s. 3d. a day, at the rate of 12s. 4½d. a week.

A boy who left school a few weeks ago and is little more than 14, is a lacquerer at a Government arsenal, earning 32s. a week. He cannot be a skilled workman in that short time. Can the inequality be explained?

## MORE SWEATING CONTRACTORS

Mr. H. D. Roberts, Chairman of the Committee of the Liverpool Anti-Sweating League, states that in Liverpool, women engaged on peeling onions for Government contractors are paid on piecework 6d. for peeling 17 sieves of onions, each weighing from 25 to 28lbs.

On time work the women get 7½d. for 5½ hours *i.e.* less than 1½d. an hour.

Mr. Roberts says that one woman who worked from Friday to Saturday earned 3s. 9d.

Mr. Roberts states that the women engaged at a certain Liverpool Government contractors factory were anxious to form a union, but someone in authority over them stated that whoever joined the union would be dismissed. Mr. Roberts rang up the manager, who said: "foremen and forewomen, you know what they are." Mr. Roberts asked that if the manager did not wish to prevent the employees joining a Trade Union he should tell them that they were free to join without fear of dismissal. The Manager has not complied with this request.

The Manchester and District Women's War Interests' Committee is asking that women in munition factories shall be guaranteed a minimum wage of £1 a week, whether employed by time or piece.

We have advocated that no adult woman should be paid less than £1 a week, but whilst such a provision would be a useful barrier against the grosser forms of sweating, we must insist that where a woman is engaged to do a man's work she must have the man's pay, or the rate of wages for everyone will be brought down.

Sir Evelyn Wood:—"Tell me what to do? Is it crossing-sweeping? Give me a broom!"

Mr. Phillip Snowden:—"Are they going to put generals to sweep crossings? Are they going to have crossing-sweepers to manage the War?"

## UNEQUAL PAY IN G.P.O.

In the House of Commons, on July 6th, Mr. Herbert Samuel stated that the Post Office is increasing the number of women employees to fill the vacancies caused by the enlistment of men; also that for the duration of the War competitive examinations for higher posts for which the male staff is eligible will be suspended.

Mr. Stuart, Secretary of the Postal Servants' Trade Union, in commenting on the statement, said:—"Sacrifices will be made quite cheerfully, but, unfortunately, the question of the employment of women has raised some very disagreeable issues, for the Post Office is paying them very small wages. That is the result of a Treasury circular which lays down a maximum of 25s. for women doing the most responsible work, and substituting women for men who are skilled and whose salaries rise to £300 a year."

Sir James Woodhouse, the arbitrator appointed in the dispute between the Post Office employees and the Government, has decided that all men whose wages are 40s. a week or less shall receive a war bonus of 3s. a week as from March last, and that all men whose wages are above 40s. a week, and including those earning 60s. a week, shall receive a War bonus of 2s. a week.

Women are to receive half the above bonuses.

The under-payment of women Post Office employees and the differentiation against them in regard to bonus should be strongly opposed both by the women and by the men concerned, who should realise that the establishment of equal pay is of vital importance if the pre-War standards of wages are not to be lowered.

## THE COAL QUESTION.

At last the Government has limited the price of coal to 4s. a ton more than the price in June of last year.

Mr. Runciman has told us that the Government sent to France, to Canada and to Spain, to procure a cheap and plentiful supply of wood for use as pit props. Therefore we presume that the chief increased expenditure estimated for, to justify the increase, must be in regard to wages. The increase in wages hitherto made, are said to cost only 1s. 6d. per ton.

There is therefore a considerable margin—is it provided to meet the demands that the miners are now making?

As usual, we find on looking closely into the Bill that large loopholes are supplied for continuing to make war profits, for the provisions of the Bill are not to apply to the sale of coal for export, *or "for use on any ship!"*

Everyone knows that immense quantities of coal are wanted for the Navy, and yet the Government, instead of insisting upon securing coal at moderate rates for the nation, has thus expressly empowered the mine owners to go on over-charging as before! We shall all have to pay for this piece of jobbery through increased taxation.

Again the Bill does not seek to limit the prices to be charged for existing contracts and we understand that most of the local authorities have just ordered their winter stock of coal.

We conclude that this Bill has been introduced thus at the eleventh hour, to give an air of impartiality to the proclamation which has been issued, placing the coal mining industry under the provisions of the Munitions Act, in order to prevent a strike.

The *Times* is gloating over the fact that the miners will be punished if they strike, but we must remember that the mineowners, who have been exploiting the public all the time, have refused to negotiate.

Lord Loreburn says that unless sanity returns to Europe as a whole, there will be general bankruptcy, in some cases accompanied by revolution.

## IF YOU WANT TO HELP WOMEN,

Not only those who have good clothes, nicely curled hair, and comfortables homes;

But the women who most need help;

The women who are on the bottom rung of the social and industrial ladder;

The women who live in overcrowded homes, and who have too many mouths to feed on too little money;

The sweated workers who work long hours for little wages;

The widows striving to maintain their children on miserably small earnings eked out by Poor Law doles;

The soldiers' wives and mothers, who are filled with anxiety for those who are fighting at the front and have difficulty in getting the allowances they are entitled to.

**If you are on the side of the workers** and against the piling up of big profits out of the misery and degradation of the people;

## IF YOU WANT TO HELP THE CHILDREN.

If you want them to be sure of the nourishment needed to make them strong;

If you want them to have better home conditions, better school conditions and wider opportunities, the assurance of a joyous childhood and happy and useful after-life;

### THEN JOIN THE EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

You are needed;
You will be welcomed;
There is work for you to do.

Look on the front page for the Meetings and the back page for branch reports.

If there is no branch in your district, write to us to say that you will help to form one there.

**It does not matter who you are, or where you are,**
for, wherever it is, there are women needing your help and comradeship, and the things that you will be able to teach them as soon as there is born in you the determination to help.

Never think that you are too busy,
Or too poor,
Or that you do not know enough,
For there is work for everyone.

***THE WOMEN NEED YOUR HELP***
***THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP***

**You can help to build up a better world for all.**

*I wish to become a Member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES:—*

*Name*.....

*Address*.....

.....

**The E.L.F.S. minimum subscription is 1d. to join, and 1d. a month.**

Questions in the House of Commons, on July 6th, drew from Mr. Tennant, the Under-Secretary of State for War, the statement that there is no appeal from a sentence or order of the Military Authority under the Defence of the Realm Act, and that a man or woman, against whom an order is made by the Military Authority, may not appear before the Military in person, to put his or her side of the case.

This will operate most unjustly against those who are unaccustomed to writing. Here is another proof of the unwisdom of allowing coercive panic legislation to be hurried on to the Statute Book.

## DISTRICT REPORTS.

**Bow and Bromley, Hackney, Stratford and Shoreditch members will probably find it most convenient to form up at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. Poplar, Limehouse and Stepney, West Ham and East Ham members will find it best to form up at the Dock Gates. Please be punctual and bring all your friends along.**

### BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Very successful meetings held in the open-air, to advertise the Demonstration. Please remember that these special meetings will continue to be held until the 20th; come to support speakers, sell papers and give out bills. Members and others, please turn up in full force on the 20th., our contingent forms up at 400 Old Ford Road at 8, and starts at 8.30 sharp. Helpers are also wanted for poster parading and chalking.

Don't forget, the Outing is on Sunday.

We want you for paper selling, canvassing, chalking, billing. There is work for all! Come and help to stand up for the working woman—you are urgently wanted!

*Dreadnought* sales, week ending July 10th—983. Miss O'Brien 203, Mrs. Crabb 88, Mr. & Mrs. Payne 63, Miss Carr 30, Mrs. Farrall 29, Mrs. Greer 27, Miss Marks 24. Special Meetings 335.

Well done Bow, the branch will soon be selling its weekly thousand!

### POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
*Organiser:* MRS. DRAKE.

An excellent meeting was held last Monday at the Dock Gates, 55 papers being sold. Mrs. Cressall, Miss C. Dent and Miss J. Watts are thanked for selling on this occasion.

On Tuesday evening and Friday afternoon, Mrs. McLeod gave an interesting account of her experiences "with the Red Cross in France." On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, a number of very successful outdoor meetings were held, to work up the Demonstration.

The Sunday meeting that is usually held at Railway Street was held at the Dock Gates instead, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was the speaker. This was a record meeting, 139 papers being sold. Miss C. Dent, Miss J. Watts, Miss T. Barker, Miss P. Lagsding and Mrs. Bird were the papersellers. Our thanks to them.

All members must concentrate on the Demonstration, and get their friends to walk in the procession (not on the pavement). Be at the Dock Gates at 8, and start off at 8.30 sharp.

*IMPORTANT.—Don't forget the General Meeting to be held here Monday, July 19th.*

Papers sold week ending July 10th—382. Mrs. Bird sold over 70, Miss T. Barker and Miss P. Lagsding 50 between them, 75 between Miss C. Dent and Miss J. Watts.

Collected—Mrs. Bird 10s. 1d. at Green's, Mrs. Drake 14s. 6½d. at Cubitt Town.

The sale of our paper is increasing fast, let us keep it up! Papers distributed—500.

### HACKNEY.

*Offices:* 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Papers sold 98. Distributed 50.

We must work hard in the few days that remain to make the procession to the House of Commons a great success. Members have distributed bills and sold papers during the week.

Mrs. Cyon was the speaker last Tuesday afternoon, and Mrs. Schlette last Thursday. Miss Pankhurst held three meetings from the cart on Friday.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for July are due, and that tickets for the outing may be obtained from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. These should be bought at once.

Papers sold—173. Distributed—50.

### SOUTH WEST HAM.

55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
*Hon. Sec.*—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Meetings on Monday and Thursday addressed by Miss Lynch, and on Friday, at Beckton Road, 23 papers were sold. We are glad some members are again supporting the open-air meetings. Mrs. Luff brought three new members on Thursday, and three members to the League of Rights. Who will beat this record? *All members must rally to the Dock Gates, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20th, in order to go to the House of Commons.*

Are there any more who would like excursion tickets? Fare 3s. including tea.

Mrs. Honeybourne kindly gave 1s. for milk fund. All those who can afford a little for Babies' Milk and Federation work, please send some money along.

### BROMLEY.

*Joint Hon. Secretaries:*
Mrs. MCCHEYNE & Mrs. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Miss Pankhurst had a very good meeting at the corner of Washington Street, on Thursday; we hope all who were there will join the Procession to Parliament, on Tuesday night, July 20th, 8 p.m., from 400 Old Ford Road.

We hope all who can will help by giving as much as they can towards the Babies' Milk fund, as there are so many being supplied with milk daily, that it is becoming very difficult to pay the bills.

July 18th is the date fixed for the Outing, so those who have not yet bought their tickets should do so before we sell out.

*Dreadnoughts* sold—38.

### SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss BALCHIN,
39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

Good meeting at Charlotte Street (opposite Oakley Place) last Thursday. The fine and instructive speech delivered by Mrs. Butt, drew a large and attentive audience.

Will members please note that a special meeting for members and friends will be held at Kempshead Road Hall, on Wednesday, July 21st, at 8.30 p.m.

Will members and friends of this branch do their best to represent this part of London at the Demonstration on Tuesday, July 20th.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

### NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

*Hon. Sec.:* MR. H. G. EVERETT.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

An open-air Demonstration will be held in Finsbury Park on Sunday, July 18th, 3 p.m. Procession from Highbury Corner, 3.30. Speakers: A prominent Suffrage speaker, Rev. C. A. Wills, Mr. H. G. Everett, and others. Chair: Mr. S. Franklin. All members and sympathisers are urged to support the Procession to Westminster, on Tuesday, July 20th.

### MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Our four clothing stalls, where women can buy useful garments for their families for a few pence, are much appreciated. Our stock of clothing is getting low. Will friends send us some more?

### COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS.

High prices increase the need for our restaurants. At the same time the high prices make it harder and harder for us to pay our bills. Will you help?

### OUR FACTORY.

Always buy your toys and shoes from the E.L.F.S., because we pay a living wage. Latest price lists may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

### GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Bell Box collection per Miss Joyce—Mrs. Hyde 18.0, Mr. & Mrs. Merrick 10.0, Misses Arensberg 2.3—Mrs. Boswell 12.0, Savings Club 11.2½, Mrs. Winterne 5.0, 'Admirer' (DREADNOUGHT fund) 4.0, Victoria Park collection 3.9½, Miss Gannaway per Miss Turner 2.6, Collection—Poplar 2.0½, Hackney collections 1.7½, Anon per Mrs. Drake 1.0, Canning Town collection 0.9.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—George Metcalfe, Esq. 10.0.0, Mrs. Edwards (5.0 weekly) 6.10.0, Mrs. George Booth 5.5.0, Forest Hill and East Dulwich W.S.P.U. 5.5.0, Lord Clifden 5.5.0, Mrs. Mills per Lady Sybil Smith 5.0.0, D. & J. H. 5.0.0, C. E. Green, Esq., per Mrs. Digby Maitland 3.3.0, Mrs. Leo Myers 2.10.0, Paul H. King, Esq. 2.2.0, Miss M. Sharples per Mrs. Lawford 2.2.0, T. H. Wilson, Esq., 2.2.0, Mrs. Burke 2.0.0, Miss R. Mackenzie 2.0.0, Mrs. Cobden Unwin 2.0.0, Mrs. Harding 2.0.0, Mrs. Budd 2.0.0, Toolroom, etc.—London Small Arms 1.13.6½, Mrs. A. C. Allmond 1.10.0, Mrs. Usherwood 1.5.0, Miss Housman 1.3.6, Miss L. Jacobs 1.1.0, Mrs. Dawson 1.0.0, Mrs. Fforde 1.0.0, Mrs. Scrocold 1.0.0, 'Ada' 1.0.0, Miss D. Harrold 1.0.0, Mrs. Willes per Miss Burroughs 1.0.0, Miss E. Lowe 13.2, Mrs. Harben 10.6, Misses Percival 10.0, Mrs. Fox 10.0, Miss Dorothea Hollins (monthly) 10.0, Anon—Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Mrs. Rushton 10.0, Mrs. Garner 8.6, per Miss Sanderson 7.0, Miss Naomi Smith 6.0, A Woman Worker 5.0, Miss Mary Hoy 5.0, per Miss Morgan-Jones 5.0, Miss E. M. Morgan (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Powles (1.0 weekly) 5.0, Miss C. J. Bagster 5.0, Miss Paull 5.0, Miss C. Sparger 5.0, per Miss C. Sparger 5.0, Miss Marie Kerr 5.0, Miss Amy E. Grant 5.0, Mrs. G. Phipps 5.0, Mrs. J. J. Green 5.0, Mrs. E. Barfield 5.0, Employees of Messrs. Ross, Ltd., per Mrs. Yonng 5.0, Mrs. Maxwell 4.0, Mrs. M. Sell (1.0 monthly) 4.0, Miss M. Renthe (monthly) 4.0, Mrs. J. H. Clarke 3.6, Cuckoo 3.0, Miss J. T. Dreury (monthly) 2.6, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Anon—per Mrs. Sneddon 2.0, Anon—1.2, Mrs. Beverley 1.0, Anon—given at Social 1.0, Anon—per Mrs. Drake 0.3.

COLLECTIONS.—Mrs. Drake 14.6½, Mrs. Crabb 10.7½, Mrs. Bird 10.1, A Member 8.10, Miss Watts 6.6, Ruby Crabb 5.10, Miss Marks 5.7, Miss O'Brien 3.9½, Sunday 3.8½

GIFTS OF CLOTHING.—Miss K. J. Mullins, Mrs. E. Heathcote, Mrs. English, Miss E. Bullock, Anon, per Mrs. Roberts—coat and pair of boots, Mrs. Powell—Eggs, Anon—Hindhead, Surrey, Miss Lansbury, Anon, Canicula—condensed milk, Misses Sloane—malted milk, Mrs. E. J. Warrick, Anon, Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Allan Barker, per Miss Newcomb, B.D.W.S.U., Mrs. Alison Pymm, Mrs. Thewlis, Mrs. Walpole, The Latrobe Helping Hand.

## DANISH PROGRESS.

To the Danish women who have just become Parliamentary voters, the granting of their enfranchisement has come as the natural outcome of the steady development of progress in their country, which in many respects is greatly in advance of our own.

One of the great factors which made for education and consequently for general development in Denmark is the Peasant High Schools—boarding schools to which 47 per cent. of the young men and women go for educational courses of five or three months, to supplement the elementary education given to them when they were children in the day schools.

The following brief account of the growth of the High Schools and their bearing upon the Suffrage question is sent to us by Mrs. Johanne Munter of Copenhagen, one of the suffrage pioneers, whose portrait we published in the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT a short time ago.

### The DANISH PEASANT SCHOOLS

There was a time in Denmark when the condition of the peasants was very bad. It is not so long ago, that the peasants had to render "soeage" to the estate owners, being obliged, in addition to paying rent for their tenancy of the land owned by their overlord, to work for him without pay as many days in the week as he chose to exact.

In the early years of the nineteenth century, Grundtvig, one of the great theological students of Denmark, was much concerned for the welfare of the peasants. He commenced a fight to ensure freedom for them, protesting with indignation that they who ought to be honoured as the mainstay of Denmark, were instead, a subjugated people, and preaching that Denmark must give education ond enlightenment to the people.

Grundtvig spoke with so much conviction that he secured large numbers of adherents. Pupils flocked to him as the centre of all wisdom. In the churches where he spoke, people crowded to hear him. His words were as growing seeds in the young minds of his day.

Amongst other things Grundtvig told his hearers that it was wrong to teach by rote, showing that whilst children thus taught might learn to give apparently well studied answers, if the same questions were put to them in other words, it would be discovered that the pupils had not understood the real meaning of the lesson. He agreed that it was more necessary for the pupils to understand the true meaning of what they were taught, than to learn to reproduce a mere form of words.

One of Grundtvig's most enthusiastic pupils Kristen Kold, obtained a position as teacher in a house where there were three children, one of whom was said to be exceedingly dull; in teaching her, Kold used the metholds advocated by Grundtvig, and she made wonderful progress. But in spite of his success he found on leaving this family that he could get no other post unless he would give up Grundvig's system. He therefore learned bookbinding and when short of work engaged himself as servant to a Missionary pastor named Hass, and went to Smyrna with him in 1842.

The position proved to be a martyrdom to Kold, and when his employer left Smyrna, he remained behind.

After he had seen Hass sail away, Kold sat by the harbour wondering despondently what he should do so far from his home, and without money. He was considering whether he should drown himself, when suddenly he felt someone tap him on the shoulder. It was a ship's captain, who asked him if he knew the address of a bookbinder as he wished to have his shipping journals bound. There were numbers of other captains in the port who also wanted their journals bound, and the day after they brought the work to Kold. Thus, as it seemed to him, by the direct intervention of Providence, his poor existence changed to comparative luxury. He believed that he had had a message from Heaven and resolved to return to Denmark, but travel in the forties of the last century was not so easy as now-a-days. First he found a ship to take him to Trieste. There he bought a wheelbarrow for his bookbinding tools and materials, for he understood from his message that it was by the help of this trade that he should reach his home. His plan was to stop at the larger towns, and there work for the money which would take him on his way home. The young pedestrian with his wheelbarrow had the great joy of reaching his dear Jylland, or as English people call it Jutland, in 1846.

In the year of his return he made the acquaintance of Pastor Birkedal, in whom he found support for the educational ideals to which in spite of opposition, he still wished to devote his life.

With Birkedal's help Kold founded at Ryslinge the first peasant High School, that High School which he hoped would realise the dreams of Grundtvig for the building up of Denmark's future.

Then at last fashion seized Kold's interpretation of the ideas of Grundtvig for spreading enlightenment amongst the Danish peasants. It became an honour to be a teacher in a High School, and to fight for the use of the "living word," which Gruntdvig always emphasised in preference to the written one.

Then one day, the young peasants who had had the wonderful experience of passing from the darkness of ignorance to the bright daylight of knowledge, came with a serious complaint to the director of the High School. They told him, that they no longer took pleasure in visiting their homes, for they no longer had interests in common with their relatives and therefore they asked Kold to throw open the High School at stated times for their sisters, sweethearts and wives. And Kold, who knew that the young men in the summer and autumn had their work in the fields to attend to, decided that the same schools might be used in the summer-time for teaching the young women. So it is that one must take care not to travel on the railways during the first days of November, for the trains are crowded with a stream of travellers—girls leaving the schools, and young men arriving—for the young men and women of Denmark are fellow-workers at the schools!

As for the influence of the High Schools on the politics of Denmark, it is wonderful! Who are the people who are elected to the Parish Councils? Usually those who have been High School pupils. More and more you find the High School pupils getting on to the Town and County Councils, and into Parliament—you find them even in the Government. And where the men of the High Schools have gone, the women will also follow!

On October 22nd, 1912, a High School pupil of Kristen Kold, Klaus Berntsen, who had become Prime Minister of Denmark, introduced proposals for amending the Danish constitution to include votes for women.

Before Berntsen was able to carry his proposals through he had to make way for a Radical Government. But this Government adopted his ideas with the result that the Constitution of 1915 has given women the vote.

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The E.L.F.S. General Members' Meeting will be held this month at 20 Railway Street, Poplar, on Monday, July 19th, at 8 p.m.

BUSINESS—
Procession to Parliament.
Our Policy on National Register.

Every member of the Federation should attend.

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Forward Cymric Suffrage Union. Great Demonstration in Hyde Park, Sunday, July 18th, 5 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, Mrs. Davies, Rev. Drew Roberts, Miss Janette Steer, Mrs. Nevinson, Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Hylton Dale, Mrs. Penn Gaskell, Mrs. Walker, Miss Alison Neilans, Miss Fedden. Come and support the F.C.S.U., which has kept the Suffrage flag flying throughout the War.

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